

11-3590-a

13 MAY 1959

card
Mr. E. Thomas Colosimo
Arrow, Inc.
1166 - 19th Street, N. W.
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Mr. Colosimo:

Thank you very much for your letter regarding the Communist-sponsored World Youth Festival in Vienna. As you may be aware, this government is not in a position to prevent the attendance at the Festival by individual Americans, and it is recognized that some patriotic, anti-Communist Americans, motivated by curiosity, the desire for contact with foreign youth, and the prospect of inexpensive travel, will be attracted to the Festival just as many of our citizens are now attracted to visiting the Soviet Union. However, since the event is Communist-sponsored and Soviet-directed as well as financed, participation by U. S. organizations is discouraged.

The State Department stands ready to brief individual participants. If any Americans with an Indian background express an interest to attend this event, I suggest that you direct them to check with the State Department's Public Affairs Office so that they can be given pertinent background information.

Sincerely,

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SIGNED

Allen W. Dulles

Director

(EXECUTIVE SECRETARY)

Signature Recommended:

[Redacted Signature]

Deputy Director (Planning)

DDP/EE

Revised

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6 May 59

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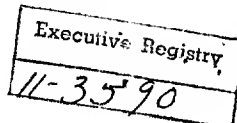
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Arrow, Inc.

1166 - 19TH STREET, N. W.

WASHINGTON 6, D. C.



WILL ROGERS, JR.
Honorary President
LOUIS R. BRUCE, JR.
President
RUTH M. BRONSON
Vice-President
LAWRENCE H. NOTT
Treasurer

Phone:
METropolitan 8-4459

April 28, 1959

Dear Mr. Dulles:

The organization for which I am Executive Director has received a request from the American Youth Festival Organization to assist it in its participation in the 7th World Festival of Youth and Students, to be held in Vienna July 26 to August 4.

In her letter to us, the Executive Secretary of AYFO presents some arguments which could be interpreted as being logical. My personal opinion is that with malice aforethought, participation could be justified. But also from a personal point of view, I do not want to be in a position where ten years from now, or maybe before, a Congressional Committee or an employer could say, "Oh, that's Tom Colosimo; when he was Executive Director of Arrow he recommended the participation of Arrow in a Communist-initiated youth festival." -- I have had some experience in initiating action against the Communist International conspiracy, and I found the results unappreciated to say the least.

However, I would be more than happy to cooperate in any way that would help the country. The nature of our democracy certainly puts a heavy load on your organization; whether or not you are succeeding will never be known unless disaster is upon us, and then it will be too late.

I am enclosing a copy of Miss Perry's letter and my reply, also a copy of an article which appeared in a recent New York Times concerning the Vienna rally.

Sincerely,

E. Thomas Colosimo
E. Thomas Colosimo

enclosures

Mr. Allan W. Dulles
Central Intelligence Agency
2430 E Street N.W.
Washington, D. C.

American Youth Festival Organization, Inc.

608 SOUTH DEARBORN STREET - SUITE 403-4 - CHICAGO 5, ILLINOIS - WEBSER 9-4532

April 3, 1959

Board of Directors
Arrow, Inc.
605 14th Street N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sirs:

By way of introduction, permit us to tell you a little about the AYFO, Inc. and why this organization was formed.

This corporation was formed in October of 1958, primarily to encourage American youth to participate in world events, particularly those which include the youth of the Communist East. We are a non-partisan, not for profit group, dedicated to promoting direct, friendly contact between individual Americans and their counterparts everywhere. The AYFO maintains that lasting peace can be ultimately realized by people meeting people, for this is the best way to clear away misunderstandings, ill-will and intolerance. This, in turn, builds respect between the various nations and their peoples.

Part of that operation includes American participation in the 7th World Festival of Youth and Students which will be held from July 26-August 4 in Vienna. This years Festival provides a common ground(neutral Austria), where youth from all nations may come together to seek ways of easing world tensions, to better their lot in a divided world, and find mutual values.

The Festival consists, in the main, of representatives from the Communist world. We feel that this, therefore, presents a perfect opportunity for selling these young people on our way of life, and to learn, in return, what exactly makes up their lives and their thoughts. The enclosed copy of our Purposes and Principle will explain our reasoning a bit more.

As to the Festivals themselves, they are biennial affairs held in a different capital of Eastern Europe, except for this one, in neutral Austria. American participation in these Festivals(which are sponsored by two East European Communist student groups), has been almost nil. A few left wing young Americans have attended, but have given unfair pictures of our country. In 1957, 165 Americans attended the Festival in Moscow, and for the first time the truth about our country was given.

However, we who attended the Moscow Festival were woefully unprepared, both with the youth who did not attend and with the exhibits we were unable to present. For example(and this is one of the main reasons for this letter), when we protested Soviet intervention in Hungary, the answer was, " How do you dare to say this after the way you have treated the American Indian?" There was no answer for us to give for, as you probably are aware, few people know very much about the American Indian.

It is for this reason that we wish to include representatives of the various Indian nations and tribes in our delegation, together with the songs, dances, handicraft and culture. Let them tell their story so that the truth, whatever it may be, may be known.

As might be expected, criticism of American participation has been made. The State Department says,

" It is recognized that there will be a desire on the part of many young Americans who have no respect for international communism, to take advantage of an opportunity to meet young people of other nationalities, including those from the Communist countries, who may gather in Vienna. They would be well advised, if they attend, to inform themselves adequately to cope with typical Communist propaganda against the United States and its Government"

The New York Times has announced that the State Department is quietly urging qualified young Americans to attend.

A special plane is being chartered which will leave July 20 and return August 20. The young people will have 2 weeks to do with as they choose as independent travelers. The cost of \$435.00 which is complete includes: all transportation between New York and Vienna
2 day stopover in Paris with all meals, lodgings and sightseeing
the 10 days in Vienna with all meals, lodgings, Festival events, etc.

Therefore, AYFO, Inc. calls upon all young people, all cultural, sports and religious groups, all youth organizations, to work together for a truly representative delegation composed of all Races, Religions and Political beliefs.

We think you will agree, that if the AYFO, Inc. can organize a large group of intelligent, open-minded young people to meet with other youth on a fair, square and honest basis, this can serve as a positive influence toward the deus ex machina granting just and eternal peace.

On behalf of the AYFO, Inc. Executive Board,

Sincerely,

Barbara Perry
Barbara Perry
Executive Secretary

cc: Richard van Frank
Director Eastern Regional Office
9 Sacramento Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts

THE AMERICAN YOUTH FESTIVAL ORGANIZATION, INC.

OUR PRINCIPLES AND PURPOSES

TO PROVIDE the youth of the United States an opportunity to meet, under amicable circumstances, the arts and ideas of strange and controversial worlds; the youth of the world, a true and clear picture of America, through exhibits, displays, discussion and example;

TO EXPLORE the varied heritages, traditions and customs of every nation in the world-- from Ghana to Great Britain, the USSR to Argentina, America to China;

TO VIEW ourselves, our way of life and our heritage in the light of present world developments, and to see ourselves as the world sees us;

TO CREATE a showcase for the finest achievements of our youth: the Philosopher; the Historian; Poet; Craftsman; Industrialist; Artist; Scientist; Teacher; Dancer; Athlete
Student

TO BUILD bridges across the broad chasms of intolerance, ignorance, misunderstanding and ill-will which separate us;

TO CONVINCe the youth of the world that American youth is vitally concerned with preserving world peace; that our youth are cognizant of the problems faced by other nations and that we care;

TO PROMOTE understanding and friendly cooperation between the young people of the world, regardless of RACE, RELIGION, PERSONAL or POLITICAL belief;

TO OPEN the door and serve as guide, with all the wit and perception we can summon up.

April 20, 1959

Dear Miss Perry:

Thank you for your letter under date of April 3.
I am sorry to not have answered it sooner.

In connection with your request that we participate
in the 7th World Festival of Youth and Students, July 26,
in Vienna, I expect to discuss this with our Executive
Committee in the next two weeks, and will let you know
their reaction as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Frances Colwell
Executive Director

Miss Barbara Perry
Executive Secretary
American Youth Festival Organization, Inc.
643 South Dearborn Street
Chicago 5, Illinois

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 1959

SOVIET HAND SEEN IN VIENNA RALLY

**U.S. Experts Cast New Chief
of Secret Police in Major
Youth Festival Role**

By WILLIAM J. JORDEN

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 22

Some experts think the new chief of the Soviet secret police may be playing an important role in planning the International Youth Festival in Vienna this summer.

They also believe his successor as chief of the Communist Youth League, Vladimir Y. Semichastny, may have been assigned to full-time duty to prepare for the youth rally, the first to be held outside the Iron Curtain. Mr. Semichastny was named last December but three months later it was stated that he had been reassigned.

Alexander N. Sholepin, who replaced Gen. Ivan A. Serov as chief in the Soviet security organization last December, had spent most of his political life in youth organizations. Now 40 years of age, he has been active in the Communist Youth League (Komsomol) for eighteen years, six of them as the organization's first secretary.

For twelve years, he has been a leading figure in the World Federation of Democratic Youth, one of the groups most active in preparing the Youth Festival in Vienna.

Helped at Warsaw Meeting

The new Soviet security chief helped to arrange the 1955 World Youth Festival in Warsaw and was the leading organizer of the 1957 festival in Moscow.

Experts on Soviet affairs doubt that Mr. Sholepin was elevated to his new important post without any background in secret police work and security matters. Nor do they believe that in his new post he would have broken off his connections within the youth and student organizations of the Soviet Union and the Communist bloc.

Thus, they assume that he is playing an active part in making plans for Soviet participation in Vienna. They believe the selection and supervision of 800 Soviet young people—and of several thousand others from the China mainland and other Communist states—presents Moscow with a difficult security problem.

This is particularly true since at Vienna it will not be possible to control the civilian popula-

tioning it to find out who was an identity of the Soviet. That is the publicly stated purpose.

Despite the evidence that the Soviet Union will try to use the festival to sell communism, the organizers of the festival continue to insist that the gathering has no ideological or political purposes. Youth and student groups from most non-Communist countries have not accepted this view and have refused to take part in the festival.

Austrian student groups suspect a minority Communist organization have protested against holding the festival in their country.

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7 MAY 1959

Hand

Mr. Frederic W. Collins
PROVIDENCE (R.I.) JOURNAL
1203 National Press Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Fred:

I want to tell you how pleased I was with your series of four articles based on my speech "The Challenge of Soviet Power" in New Orleans on 8 April 1959.

You and the PROVIDENCE JOURNAL have done an excellent service in bringing to the attention of your readers the serious economic threat as well as the military and the subversive threat which the Communist Bloc presents to the United States and to the rest of the Free World.

Kind personal regards,

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Allen W. Dulles
Director

O/DCI/SJGrogan:abi (5 May 59)

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